

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: That was after you saw the report.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Oh, you dog.

Mr. Hees: Start again and let's have the true story.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that after I have had time to review the report and our officials have had time to study it we will then make a decision and a statement as to what we are going to do, if anything.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether you would permit me, under the provisions of Standing Order 41, to table the report of the Food Prices Review Board in order to make it available to the minister? I have had it since four o'clock yesterday from distribution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that Standing Order 41(2) does not make it possible for an hon. member to table a document. The Standing Order refers to ministers. If the hon. member wants to bring the report to the attention of the minister, I am sure he can send it to him and give him an opportunity to look at it.

Mr. McGrath: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to make the document available to the minister so that he can table it under Standing Order 41.

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs—

Mr. Frank: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the right hon. gentleman. The hon. member for Middlesex rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Frank: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer the minister gave to my first question indicated that he had not seen the report—period. In answer to the second question he indicated he had seen it because he discussed it with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. What did he discuss if he had not seen the report?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I have seen it just now since the member's question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: I have seen a document that looks like the rising sun, but I have not had time to look at it and study it and it had not come across my desk as at twelve o'clock. Speaking to the point of privilege, I think I have some right to explain my position. I was at meetings last night until after eleven o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Wait until Mrs. Plumptre hears about it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Whelan.]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I have been at meetings right until walking into the House at two o'clock, Ottawa time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: I want to explain that I have meetings with the Canadian Livestock Feed Board and other bodies during the rest of the day and will not have time to look at this report even if it is on my desk when I get back.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. These procedural points are fascinating, I am sure, but we might attempt for a few minutes to return to the question period. The right hon. gentleman has been recognized and has the floor.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**ALLEGATIONS ON CBC TELEVISION PROGRAM CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND OTHER CANADIANS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he saw the CBC show last evening put on by Mr. W. I. Macadam which was a tremendously potent one, so far as the alleged facts therein are concerned, most disruptive of relations between our country and the United States. I would ask him whether or not there was any submission of this program to the government department in charge of security, how long the oath of secrecy applies and, in general, what he has to say about the alleged revelation that the National Research Council of Canada has been used as a secret intercepting and bugging agency working directly with United States national security agencies and also the other allegations concerning the use of Canadians in North Viet Nam, Hanoi, and in Cuba to engage in espionage work for the benefit of our allies?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did not see the program last night. I was with my colleagues discussing other matters.

Mr. Hees: Egg prices.

Mr. Sharp: I should say to the hon. gentleman that of course the material that appeared in this program was not submitted to the government for approval. As to security I would also like to say to him that there has been no change in the arrangements regarding the activities talked about on this program since he was Prime Minister of this country.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Any suggestion that anything of that kind was done when I was Prime Minister is false. That is not answering the question. That will please the Prime Minister because this kind of smart-aleck stuff is regarded by him as statesmanship. I ask a simple question. The minister said he did not see this program and was busy last night as was the Minister of Agriculture, I hope in different fields. I ask him: Will he have this looked into